THE CAPTURE OF NEW ORLEANS.

The Reconnoissance and Preparations for the Bombardment of the Forts.

The Passage of the Union War Vessels Over the Bar at the Mouth of the Mississippi.

Opening the Ball by Commodore Porter with His Mortar Fleet.

THE GUNBOATS SUPPORTING HIM.

The Flank Movement of Major General Butler.

The Mississippi Squadron and Its Commanders, ac.,

The United States steamer Connecticut, Commande Woodhull, from the blocksding squadron, arrived at this port yesterday morning, bringing the matis and about two hundred sick and wounded seamen from the various abips of the blockeding squadron. She also brought several refugees from Texas, who were taken from Matamoros by the United States gunboat Mont-

The Connecticut left the Southwest Pass April 12. Th ships of the expedition to New Orleans were all inside the passes, and were making preparations to move. They had their decks sanded, and were all ready for action. The craws of the ships along the coast are all in very good

The following are the passengers by the Connecticut:-W. H. Gladding, H. L. Okcutt, H. B. Jecks, G. N. Hood, J. A. Darling, F. Davis, S. W. Patterson, J. S. Pardee, J. D. Robertson, C. J. Culbertson, Thos. Walden, Heury Etting, R. H. Hill, Chas. Desames, Wm. W. Patten, F. F. White, E. Booth, J. A. Grady, N. W. Duniap, Licetonant H. G. Fox, Major Paine, Goo. E. Weish, and about 100 lick and wounded seamen and soldiers.

The following are the names of the refugees:-E. Larned, Thos. McBride, Henry Corning, Wm.

Our Naval Correspondence. United States Gunsoat Winona, Mississipir River, March 11, 1862. ers in Sight-Call to Action-They Pass by without Offering to Pight-The Men Sleep on Their

This morning Capt. Bell and your correspondent took for the purpose of visiting points of interest up the river. Previous to our starting for the head of the passes, we made several soundings on the bar; after which we went up, steaming against a five knot current at a fine ratesignalized to the Kennebeck that the enemy was in sight and to prepare for battle. Fighting fever ran high, and the sailors were in ecstacles when they were called to quarters. The guns were cast loose in a moment, and side arms quickly put on, and we were ready. Captain Bell ordered the ships in line of battle, and then sum moned the commanders to repair on board to receive moned the commanders to repair on board to their instructions. As it was quite late in the day it was deemed advisable to anchor in a commanding post-abel steamers soon turned and tion for the night. The rebel steamers soon turned and wont up the river, without, however, recognizing our thing disturbed our sleep, save mosquitees, which drew

UNITED STATES GUNBOAT WINONA, March 12, 1862. 4 Heavy Prog-Another Prospect of a Buttle-An Ecoting
Ohave-We Fire at the Robel Craft-The Robel Scamers
Rum Away with Siz Schooners-They Wow't Pight-The Robel Telegraph Cut, dec.

At three o'clock this morning a heavy for shut us in rom the gaze of the rebels, if they were watching-us This state of things lasted until about naif-past eight o'clock, when the fog began to lift. As the hours passed by the fog lightened, so that by ten o'clock it was quite plear, and we then up ancher and stood on up the river, with the intention of getting a glimpse of the forts at the bend. At a quarter to cleven o'clock we saw the black smoke of a steamer. Signals were thrown out to our little fleet to prepare for battle. A large banner of om was hoisted, and we were in fighting trim. Siggal was made to increase speed. Our fires were a little slack; so we cut up a lot of tarred rigging which belonggot on shore. This junk was savered into a thousand pisces by the sailors, who worked as men do who ex peet to do something. Our furnaces were plied with the tarry rope, and dense volumes of black smoke arose was made. We cained on the rebal, and she piled the pitch pine wood into her furnaces. Still we gain on The chase now becomes truly exciting; our for ward pivot is trained upon the scamp; still we draw pearer and read upon her paddle box "Star." "Fire a him." cries Captain Nichols. Bang, whiz, whiz goes a twenty-pound rifle shell at him. The Star steams harde than ever, and whistles for help. Bang goes another shell, the Kennebec following suit. Just then the Kines regare up the chase. As we stopped we discovered long, black rebel steamer coming to the assistance of the Star. Two more steamers were then discovered and six schooners lying at anchor at a point just below the forts. At a quarter of one o'clock we again formed in line of battle, having found that the Kineo's bollers had been foaming, but were now making steam all right. Away we went up the river again. We now found that there were seven steamers in the party, and that they had taken the six schooners in tow and were scudding up the river as rapidly as they could. As they sch start, and being so much faster than or wassels, we gave up the chase, having been up abreast of on shore at the "Jump," and cut the telegraph wire, and found that there was a slight electric current manifest Bringing away about two hundred and fifty feet, he pulled to the lower side of the mouth of Wilder's Bayo and examined the station, but found nothing of note, Arriving on our downward trip at the head of the caree (of which I send you a sketch), Captain Bell and myself arked on board of the Konnebeck, leaving the Winons and Kineo to hold the passes. We now shaped our course down the Southwest Pass, and at four o'clock I landed at a Fronch gentleman's house on the right bank of the river. Not a soul was there to greet us, and when we entered the house we found it as desolate as an empty barn. Everything had been removed but a bedstead tools and empty demijohns could be found. Two discor were in a half sunken lot in the rear of the house, and a half dozen porkers were rooting up the gar den, while some lean, animated beeves were cropping cane in an adjacent field. Leaving this desciate scene, we out the telegraph wire, and then embarked on the Kenne-bock, and steamed for the pass. Arriving there at five o'clock, in the midst of a fog, we found the de the bar, and the flagship lying just outside of 1 Here we lay all night and until the morning of the 13th At eleven o'clock we got under way, the fog having lifts so that we could see the ship. I send you a correct list of the Kennebeck's officers:--

of the Konnebock's officer's:

Lieutenant Commanding—Jao, H. Russell.
Lieutenant and Escensive Officer—F. B. Blake.
Assistant Surgeon—C. H. Perry.
Assistant Acting Paymaster—C. L. Burnet.
Acting Masters—Win. Brooks, H. C. Wade.
Captaint's Clerk—G. P. Lovering.
Second Assistant Engineer—B. W. Fitch.
Taird Assistant Engineers—B. C. Gowing, L. W. Robinson, E. E. Roberts.
Acting Master's Mater—J. D. Ellie, H. E. Tinkham, J. W.
Fage, J. W. Merryman.

United States Flagsing Harrond, Prior Town, Southwest Pass, March 13, 1862. }
The Harrord Passes Over the Bar in Safety—Who Accompished the Difficult Feat—The Flag Officer's Appreciation

Here I am, once more, on board of our good old ship, and can say, with truth, "there is no place like home." arned that as soon as the fog would permit we would go in over the bar. At three o'clock, under the pilotage of Mr. Halter, United States Coast Survey, and Captain Balalah, we started inside. On we wont, steaming slowly

up alongstie of the Brooklyn; thence up the river, and to an anchorage off Pilot Town, where we anchored abou dvo o'clock. To Mr. Halter is due the major portion the credit of the safe and speedy pilotage of two heavy first class steam sloops of war. The flag officer was highly deligned with Mr. Halter's skill and unofulness and has advised the Navy Department and the Const Survey of his appreciation of the services rendered. Af-ter anchoring we loaded our guns with shell and set sea watches. Two of our broadside guns have been remov-ed forward; one of them is now looking out of the port bridle port up the river. Our watch on deck are armed and the lookouts doubled, and everything ready to re-

Pinor Town, March 14, 1862. An Boyedition—The Stars and Stripes Wase Over Pilot Town—The Desolate Appearance of the Town—Stotch of the Place—The Hartford Dismantled—The Rebel Place— Their Names and Strength—The Rescally Usage of the

Pilots by the Rebds, de., de. This morning, at half-pest four o'clock, Lieutenant A. Kanta, Captain Broome, your correspondent and thirty ma-rines, with one armed boat's crew, embarked in the barge and third cutter and want on shore to take possession of the town and hoist the Stars and Stripes. Pulling up the little creek we landed at a wharf, then, forming the the dram to the lookout station. The marines formed in line, while the officers and sailors went to the top rove halyards, got the fisgataff up, and at the signal the colors were hoisted, the drum relied, and the boatswain's mates piped "up colors." The marines presented arms, and all hands joined in and gave three tremendous cheers We then took formal possession of the town and the land and water adjacent thereto. We then visited each house and found all deserted, save three. Two of them were occupied by families of two brothers named Thompson— Germans and fishermen. The third party proved to be a bachelor Italian, a pickler of cysters by trade, and a big scamp by looks. After visiting the houses and picking out military quarters, we selected a suitable here and clear her for action, and also to make it a de-pot for stores, coal, &c. Leaving a guard of marines

ashore we returned to the ship.

Pilot Town is composed of a dozen middling good houses with as many more of less importance. Some of them are, or at least have been, fitted up richly. The house of son, the old Dane, a pilot, has been used for a hotel, and is very large and commodious. Ross' house is in excellent repair. The people ashore told us the pilots left here some months ago, and by more chance they were enabled to remain behind. They are in a half mished condition, and are terribly afraid of the vengeance of the robels should they furnish us with fish and perty should be protected, and it would not be likely

that they would ever see a secosh flag again.

As seen as we returned to the ship the topgaliant masts were sent down, all the spare spars put over the side and towed ashore and hauled up until we should

ers on the Mississippi river, and the armament of them as far as I can learn :-

Rae, four thirty-two-pounders, and one nine-inch

as far as I can learn:—
McRae, four thirty-two-pounders, and one nine-inch
shell gun.
I vy, one Armatrong rifled guns.
Jackson, two eight-inch shell gun.
Livingaton, four eight-inch shell guns and two rifled
twonty-pounders.
Mason (new), five forward and three aft.
Stidest (new), five forward and three aft.
Manassas (ram), in dock repairing.
Tennessee, drawing sixteen and a half feet, gotton
loaded, waiting to get out.
Atlantic, unknown.
Matagorda, unknown.
America, tuknown.
Pay, unknown.

Pay, inknown.
W. H. Webb, inknown.
Star, three forward and one aft. Quite a little fleet; but great on a run. This I know

puriosity in newspaperdom At ten o'clock the Brooklyn came up the river, and took her position on our starboard bow, close in shore and as soon as she anchored down came her masts, and both ships were busy all day in towing their spare ashere and stowing them in a boat shed. I spent nearly all the afternoon on shore, and enjoyed myself highly in looking into the different houses. Some were left in the utmost confusion, while others were clean swept, and such of their household utensils as they left behind were put in order. In the office of the Louisiana Pilot Associa

a schooner by the Santee. It contains no news, but is

tion, now occupied by our marines as a guard house, I found a copy of the laws regulating this body of men. The people ashore say most of the pilots were forced to go to New Orleans, and to give up a fund of \$160,000 for sick and disabled pilots to aid the rebel cause. If they were here now they could make money and, if not as much as in former times, they could takefoare of their comforts of home, and are in continual dread that their ittle all will be destroyed by fire or sacking. The Fing Officer went on shore, with Captain Bell and Dr. Foi during the day, for the purpose of selecting a place for sures me that he can accommodate one thousand patients comfortably in these houses. Perhaps it is all for the best for the pilots to have left, for the above reason if none other. Nothing has been or will be removed from the dwellings, and the marines will take good care to keep intruders away. I inclose you some election tickets which will show you that the pilots were interested in politics. The ticket inclosed has a device upon it in which there words appear-" The Union-It must be

PRIOT TOWN, SOUTH WINT PASS, March 15, 1862. Storm—The Retels Sighted—Our Vessets Ready for Action Last evening we had a very beavy storm, which lasted notil ten o'clock to-day. The remainder of our spars were sent on shore, as well as spare rigging, &c. About noon we were aroused from our quiet life by the report from the meathead that the enemy were in sight and coming down the river. At two o'clock the number o smokes increased, and we signalized the Brooklyn to get under way and follow us up the Pass. On arriving at the Head of the Passes we anchored off Cubbidd's House and ordered the Kineo to take up a position on the other side of the river. The Brooklyn anchored ahead and the Winops remained at her old position. The afternoon and evening was lovely, and a bright moon made the scene least a foot higher than it was a few days since, when ceive the scamps. We have three heavy bow gens, gun, in the tops, and petards; so, should they pay us a visit they will find that there is no "Pope's run" affair they are about to enter.

HEAD OF THE PASSES, March 16, 1362. At the Head of the Passes—Commodors Parragut—The Mor-tar Flotilla—Prises Captured—The River Blockaded by Chains—Troops and Batteries—Commodors Farragus Goes to Ship Island to Arrange for the Co-operation of the Porces, de.

We are now where a blockeding squadron should have een months ego. We are where we can do someth towards atopping cotton going out and arms coming in We are where we can and will trouble seech at ou pleasure and to his discomfort; and to Flag Officer Farra

He is a man of the age, and one, though being honore by years, is in appearance a young man—a man destined to rank with the brightest of our naval officers. No resh, but a go shead man, he combines valor with dicretion, and will not rush into anything he cannot see his way out of. Every one respects him, and our men will fight to the death for him.

While I am writing this afternoon the masthead look

outs report fifteen vessels in sight, of the Southwest Pass and Pass a l'Outre. Most of them, I should judge, are have a fleet here of some considerable magnitude. The Winona has been sent to the mouth of the Pass with instructions to the ressels not to come up, and thereby re weal our force to the enemy. At dark she returned Commander Porter in charge. Last night they captured three prizes loaded with cotton. This afternoon the Kineo chased the Star, which made her appearance at a point about tix miles above us. Two Union man, who ved ten miles above this fort, came to us this afternoon with a vast amount of very valuable information. The six schooners we saw on Thursday are anchored at intervals from fort Jackson, across the river, and a chain stretched from the Fort St. Philip side, across the decks of the schooners, and thence to a busy close to Fort Jackson, where a space is left for vessels to pass through. Another chain e stretched under the bottoms of the vensels and se cured so that two chains are stretched to blookade th ever. We can fix that in a short time. The Teanessee

and Wabb went up the river on Thursday. Thay, w

several other ressels, are cotton loaded, and ready to run blockade if they can. There are 1,300 troops at Fort Jackson, and as many more at Fort St. Philip. Each ort was reinforced last week by 400 men. At English Bend there is a mad battery, and one a few miles above it. After giving us all the information they were pos-sessed of, they were put on their parole and allowed to

go to Pilot Town, where they formerly resided.

The Star is in sight this morning. The Kineo chased her and she ran, as usual. Flag Officer Farragut shirted his flag to the Winons, and sailed for Ship Isla to get the squadron in order, and to hurry them up. The Brooklyn is the senior ship, and from her all orders will emanate until the return of the Plag Omcor, which will be in the course of a few days. A guard of marines was sent to-day to Pilot Town to occupy it permanantly.

UNITED STATES PLAD SHIP HARMOND, HEAD OF THE PASSES, MARCH 21, 1802. The Rebel Spy Cruiters-Quiet Reigns Around

Avrangements for the Coming Builte, de. For the last two days it has been blowing a gale of wind from the westward, with tremendous rain storms at night, accompanied with heavy thunder and very vivid lightning. The weather is so cold that penjackets are by to means uncomfortable. Every day the rebels come what startled by the eight of quite a number of the mor-tar flotilla, coming up Pass-a-l'Outre, so that they could go down the Southwest Pass rather than go around ontai and over the bar. Our gamboats, who peform a kind of picket duty, prevented the Star from seeing too much at one time. At about eight o'clock last evening we dis covered a large fire in the neighborhood of the forts; but we have not yet learned why it was kindled. My for pression is that the rebels are clearing away the woods r reeds, so as to "give us Jesale" when we come up A mail arrived to-day, composed of old letters, probably picked up at Pickens, or brought out in some army trans port. The Fing Officer has not yet returned, but we shall look for him by Sunday at least. Until then we probably disagreeable position to be placed in. We are all vernothing so disagreeable as a want of something to d when the enomy is within a dozen miles. we will have all we want to do by and by The Biweau of Medicine and Surgery of the Navy Department have shipped, and we are daily expecting the arrival of, a large amount of hospital stores, mattresses, and, in fact, all the necessary articles for hospital use for the squadron. Fleet Surgeon Foltz will prepare the ment will be excellent as the location is good oney socces and the houses are commodious; and, instead o sending the wounded up to Ship Island or to the marine hospitalat Key West, we will have them near us, and where they can be easily attended to without so much transportation. Dr. Foltz's arparlance in the service the post he occupies. We will need a few colored women here as nurses, as they are much better than men. But suppose they can be progured at points further North, as there are none here that we can get as yet.

On Board United States Gundoat Kennesick, Mississippi River, March 28, 1862. moissance-The Appearance of the River Band The Revels Fire on Our Recommodering Party—The Shot and Shell Pall Close to Our Vessel—We Do Not Stop—A ided Fight-Sketch of the Robet Works-The Range of the Guns, do., do. This morning Captain Bell and your correspondent

up the river for the purpose of making a reconnoissance, and, if possible, to draw the ure of the enemy. The gunboat Wissahickon was ordered to join us; but, as her speed was not equal to ours, she fell into the rear, and we were obliged to slack up our speed so she could keep in company. We proceeded up the river, meeting, after we had passed the selt works, quite a number of small huts and ses situated near the water's edge, on both he forts, their flags being in sight, we saw a man on ship. He was somewhat frightened, and we did not ge but little information from him, as we were well poste up in affairs in the vicinity of the forts. At noon we were in full view of the enemy; but Fort Jackson was hid behind a grove of trees. We steamed ahead at full speed, Captain Bell and Mr. Wade being at the masthead taking notes. At this time the steamer Star came out from the fort, and by sundry evolutions endeavered to toll us on to what they considered would be certain will show. We only nomed the rebei steamer by firing at him once. When Fort Jackson's barbette guns were ust emerging from the clump of trees, of which a portion had been felled so as to leave an unobstructed line of tash, a dense column of white smoke, showed that their rmined to drive us back. On we steamed, heedless of the shell which burst within two hundred yards of us. We were busy taking notes of the surroundings, when bang went two guns, the shot falling within sixty oo much for them, and they showed it by firing a whole curtain at us of at least eight guns. In the mean time we noticed that eight hulks and a large raft supported the chain cable across the river, and that, as a protection to the chain, a small mud attery had been erected on a point lying out from the fort. We also noticed that there are heavy batteries, of over twenty guns each, on either side of Fort St. Philip. The second broadside from the fort brought out a rifled gon from Fort St. Philip, whose range exceeded the gons Fort Jackson. The first, a rifle, was succeeded second, both being of extraordinary range. In fact, better firing could not be made. The shell and shot were dropping around us like half and in close proximity, and I must confess I did some tall watching. Captain Russel handled the Kennobec beautifully, and if she had not been moved up and agross the river rapidly we secesh had fired about sixty shots, and we had learned all we wanted to know, we turned around, and the place re were lying on, the left bank of the river, a moment before was made white with the plunging shot and burst that their last ones fell within twenty yards of our decks it was the prettiest sight I have ever witnessed in that particular line of business. The Wisschickon coming up, we signalized her to follow our motions, and as she was the recipient of their far reaching shes. none of which struck her. We came down the river nutes. Capt. Bell was as cool as man could be, and I no. Lieut. Commanding Russel and his executive officer,

sire to show our metal to an enemy. As all are not familiar with the location of the place in question, I will describe it. Much, and, in fact, all, in relation to position and strength of the forts in well known to our com manding officers; but for public benefit I will state that Fort Jackson is the first work approached, and is situated on the right bank of the river. It is a five sided work, with bastions. Two of the curtains only are casemated each containing eight guus. The bastion guns are als exemated. The up river side of the fort is poorly armed and is not casemated. An auxiliary work way down the river has been built to command the upward approach, and mounts twenty eight guns. The parade ground has been dug up, and the water let in, so that if a shell, unxploded, falls inside of the work its value is diminished by its non-explosion. On a point outlying from the fort is a small mud work, probably constructed, to cover the chain hulks. The magnaine capacity of this fort is one

hundred rounds to each gun.

Now for Fort St. Philip. It is an irregular work, of considerable size, with no easemates, and is strengthened by heavy batteries on each side. It is a formidable work, and is in many respects equal to Fort Jackson. The two rifled guns whose meta-was brought out to-day I feel confident are Armstrong 42-pounders in these forts, and they have, by practice, obtained be sutiful ranges, and will hit something, I can

The cable is stretched across the river in an excellent officer in command of these works—that is, a want of discretion and patience. Had he reserved his are for ten niputes he would have hit us with every gun be fired; but we must make an allowance, as it was the first time they have had an opportunity of testing their guns on the flag they once swore to honor and protest, and conse-quently their impatience showed to us the position, numor and range of artillory, the kind of practice they will make and the practic agot where we may expect to first gonnoiseange I ever witnessed -and I have seen more

than one—and I never saw an enemy so foolishly show his power, when he could hardly but have known we were only making a reconneissance, and if he did succood in disabling us we were able, by the assistance our companions, to get out of his clutches. We could plainly see the anxious spectators on the parapet of the forts and on the paddle boxes of the Star. I noticed that, as we approached Fort Jackson they hauled down the stars and bars, so that we should have no mark to fire at. Two rebol steamers were telegraphed for, and prudently lay up to the quarantine, waiting fur-ther orders. I think their armed steamers are up the iver, in the vicinity of Memphis. No doubt the Orleans papers of to morrow will give full particulars of a great victory over the "Yankee fleet," and you may contheir fire every day, if we can, and in due time we will silence their whole fire. As I have written before, it is no anay job to take these forts; but I am satisfiel, with the force and armaments we will bring to bear against them, they must give up to the outside pressure. We know their weak points better or as well as they do, and of course we will take advantage of it.

We saw two square rigged uhips above the forts, with hair tongaliant masts down. These may be cotton leaded vessels who have been walking for a chance to get out is gone. After turning to come down the river, the Star lowed us some way, to see if we came down with will be there soon enough, and that they will learn to their at two in the afternoon, and returned on board of our

UNITED STATES FLAGSING HARTWORD, | flaad of the Passes, March 20, 1862. Rumors of War-The Nows of the Hampton Roads Fight,

the Flag Officer went down to Southwest Past o-day, to see how the ships were getting on down there. He will probably return to-night-on board this and the vessels here there is no news of much importance. We have rumors followed by rumors. We learn from a New Orleans paper of the 14th last, that the Merrimac has been down to Hampton Roads and made sad havoc among our ships. The story evidently but we cannot believe all we fine in that sheet about the affair. We are very anxious to the Monitor, which belongs to our fleet, at the Roads any longer than possible. We want her here. It is highly nportant that we should have hor here. But I suppose now it would be almost madness to ask for her. We pity orden, and trust he may recover the use of his

I close this letter, as there is a supplementary ma being made up on board, which, I suppose, will be sent to Ship Island. Up to noon to day we have no tidings of now over due.

UNITED STATES FLAGSHIP HARIFORD, HEAD OF THE PASSES, MISSISSEPT RIVER, April 4, 1862.

Other Vessels Pass the Barn-A Fight Between the United States Gunboat Kineo and the Robel Plagship—A Robel Londout—The Robel Fleet in Force near the First, &c. Since my last letter I have been engaged in voyaging setween this ship and those on the bar at Southwest Pass, watching with interest the efforts which have been made to get the heavy draught vessels into the river. The firelesippi, Iroquois and Onelda have come in, but the Pensacola is still outside, trying to come up. I think a jittle more tugging will bring her in also. The Connectiout is here with a meagre mail for us; but she brings us intelligence of the sad disaster in Hampton Roads, which we were afraid at first was of a more doleful character.

To-day we have been eye witnesses of a smart little brush between the gunboat Kineo and the flagship of the rebel flotilla. The scene of the stirmish was a few miles above us, and most of the firing could be witnessed from ppeared in sight at the point above us, steaming dow stranger, and that she were the blue flag of the Admira of the robels. She was a large and powerful side-whee waved the stars and bors. Signals were immediately thrown out from the Brooklyn (Capt. Alden being the se nior officer here, the flag officer being at the bar) to chas the enemy. The Kineo and Iroque immediately proceeded to execute the order. The robel boat came down a short distance, and stopped his engine Sinco-she being the fastest boat of the two-got within range she fired a rided gun at the defiant Admiral, but nissed the mark. The rebel now slowly turned his hea up stream, when the Kinco let fly another shell, and hi secesh. This had the effect to quicken his speed, and away he went up streem as fast as his wheels could pro pel him. The Kineo kept firing at him, and Captain Ran om informs me that he hit him three times. She was too much for the rebel, and he went off with a flee in his ear in the shape of a rifled shell. When the Kines alone, for in the distance she saw three river boats-ovi dently gunboate-two iron clad gunboate, constructed affair, which was prenounced at once to be the Ran concluded not to fight the party, and after making a good bservation of the vessels he returned with the frequein and reported the state of offairs to Captain Alden, wh once despatched the Kennebec to inform the Play Office occurred in the latter part of the afternoon to occusion any alarm; but just before sundown a rebel steame made its appearance off the point and remained ther some time taking notes, and then returned to report There can be no doubt that the rascals are proparing t attack as with rams, fireships, gamboats, and, in fact, with all the offensive means within their command. To prevent them laving a plan based upon our present nos or the position of our vessels since we came up here after dark we all up anchor and have shifted positions and as I am writing we are forming into line of battle and making all proparations to meet them on ground which we trust will prove our superiority. We are no spolling for a fight; but our country has called upon us t ard in protecting its honor, and to dafart the emblem of a great nation over a people who have rebelled and case aside a flag which has been respected for 'nearly a con tary. To do this we will give our atmost endeavers, and trust to God for success. We do not intend to be caugh "napping" and be butted and rammed at the will and morey of a desperate foe. Twice our vessels have been thus maltreated, and we will try not to have it occur again without punishing the depredators. There is strong reasons for believing that it will not be long before the enemy will be upon us and make atrong efforts to drive us from these waters. They may do it, but I oubt it. Our fighting will be of a desperate character They will come in force. Their reconneiseance of to-day shows that, and contrasts strongly with ours a few days

I have no doubt but the movements of the enemy will expedite our movements greatly, and we will be under fire much sconer than we had calculated upon. We all wish t was over. Suspence is terrible; but coolness and disall, and we must suffer some to gain any great object. I

Our Fleet Sch Sail Up the River-The Rebet Admiral Tria to Frighten Us by a Bold Managure, but Fails-A Fight This morning Flag Officer Parragut, who arrive rom the Pass last evening, Captain Bell and your special embarked on board the Iroquois. The following vessels ompenied us:-Gunboata Wissahlekon, Katahdie Kennebee, Rineo and Sciota. We left our anchorage their vessels if they could be induced to come out. Th Iroquots, which yesterday was the sterumost boat soon showed her superiority by rapidly leaving our companions in the rear. Nothing worthy of note occurred o prepare for battle was made and we best to quar I was forcibly atruck with the personnel of this trim craft. The officers and crew are very anxious to clear up any imputations which may have been east upo them in relation to their cruise after the Sumter. Deter the men were stripped to an undershirs ready for a fight. Perfect stillness reigned throughout the vessel, which was not broken save when the Flag C made some remark from the masthead, where he had stationed himself, with Captain Bell, to see the forts and the position of the ganboats. Our speed was increased to its utmost, and the Iroqueis trembled like an aspen leaf over the revolution of screw. At about noon a rebel boat, bearing a small blue use (Admiral), made its appearance. pronounced to be the tugboat W. G. Hows. Down she comp, as if she was to annihilate the entire party; but

seeing that we were alsoming faster than usual she, wise-ly for her, but unluckily for us, down holm, and soon was going up the river at full speed. We did not fire at her, choosing rather not to show our guns. As we drew near the forts, whose flags we could see, the Admiral was reinforced by his fieldla, consisting of the Ram, two fron clad gunboats and two ordinary steamers. We thought surely that we were to have a brush. Just as wa opened Fort Jackson, a little white smoke—bang— whiz-whiz-crack—splash—a white circle on the muddy surface of the river revealed at once the fact that one of the hundred-pounder rifles had been removed from Fort St. Philip to Fort Jackson, and that the demonstre tion just witnessed was from it. This was followed by another one, which struck still closer, neither of them being over thirty yards distant. The third one passed between the smoke stack and mainmast, just clearing the starboard waist beat, and, by the way, my head, and exploding close alongside of the ship. The rebels surely thought they had hit us in a tender spot, for they immediately signalled from the fort, flotilis made a terrible show of coming out, so much so that we dropped down the river about three he yards, so as to tight them out of range of the guns of the fort. Down came one follow, and when he saw that we were formed in line of battle, his better sense came to him and away he went. For four hours we lay here, boping he would come out and fight us, but he did no see it in that light. The fort fired four more shots at us each one coming close to us. We saw a large are rai to send down to us. We found their range mark (a green bush) for their rifled guns, aml, in fact, made pre notes than they would be willing to let us have if they could prevent lit. The firing, and the long time we were away from our anchorage, induced the Hartford, Brookiyn, Richmond and Varuna to proceed up the river, out we were returning when we met them. I am happy o record that the Hartford was the fastest of her class and her appearance elicited much commendation. returned and anchored in proper order to resist and repel any attack the rebeis chose to make. The reconnois ance was eminently successful in all points, save one, the capture of ene or more of their boats. I am sure we offered them every inducement so to do, but they are probably laying back for the future. We have a large fleet at the head of the Passes, and a still larger one tays at Pilo Town. By the way, Lieutenant Heisler, of the marines attached to the Hartford, has been relieved by Lieutenant Filton, of the Colorado. Licutenant Heisler could not be well spared from the vessel just as we are going into a

Unrow States Flagging Hardsond, }
Head of the Passes, Mississive River, April 9, 1862. }
More Fighting—The Prench Captain—The Flag of Truce-How It was Received-Something Inexplicable-The Freatment the French Captain Received-Porter's Fleet Arrived-Medical Stores Wanted-Death of Francis Bird-A White Eagle Hovers Over the Fleet, &c.

tters have assumed a more warlike aspect since th date of my last lotter. We have been dred at several times by the rebels, and the New Orleans papers have assure you that they givry over a very trifling affair. In the first place, we have not fired at them but twice; once we hit one of their gunboats. They have expended nearly one hundred shells at our gunboats, and have not hit us once. We are pained to learn by the way of New Orleans (papers of the 7th inst.) of a misfortune to our army in the Southwest, and trust it is not so bad as the rebais picture it. They paint their victory in glowing colors, and talk of the utter annihilation of our entire

Yesterday Captain Clews, of the French brig-of-war Milan, having the permission of our Flag Officer, took his boat and went on board of the gunboat Winona, Com-mander Nichols, to go up to the Crescent City. The Winona went up within two miles of thewort, flying & dag of truce (the first one holsted on this river), where the French Captain embarked in his boat. The Wiscons, with Commander De Camp, of the Iroquois, on board, went up still further, man's desire to communicate with him. As soon as the Winons came within range of Fert Jackson the latter fired a blank cartridge—a signal to heave to. Owing to some mistake the Winona did not slacken down her speed enough to satisfy the robols, and they fired a shot at her, which just cleared her topgallant forecastle. By this time the gunboat was close to the fort, and to a Small tugboat which lay at the point "wooding up." The fellows in the boat were terribly frightened, and ran away from their vessel. No somer had they cleared the decks of the tug before she was discovered to be in lames, and despite of the efforts of the Winona's boats, she was totally destroyed by fire. In the mean time and started towards the landing place. Again the robels fired a shot at our people. The boat returned to the and Defiance came down bearing a white flag, and took natters could be explained the Morgan went down the river and took the French boat in tow; after which some palayer took place between the rebels and Captain De Camp, and they separated.

caring to show her armament (if she has any). counted fifty seven guas in Fort Jackson; but we do not ears to know about their forts. Upon the whole, it is a strange piece of business, and you will hear more about

t in proper time.

This morning the French boat was seen in the disence, coming down the river under call. It looked strange, as we expected he would come down in one of our gunboats. When Captain Claws, of the Milan, ar rived on board he stated, in substance, that the rebels had made a prisoner of him, charged him with bring a spy, and referred to clion him to communicate which New Orleans except by a brief telegrom, and they told him that when his answer came down they would send it to that when his answer came down they would selfd it to him. This morning, at seven o'clock, they released him in a prempt and decisive manner. He left them in no pleasant humor, and broakfasted on board of one of our gunboats. I am at a less to know how his governme will receive his report. This piece of information has spread like wildfire, and is the principal topic of con-

rerection to-day.

Percer's entire fleet is here at anchor, and the sight from our poop is truly magnificent. Half a bundred of ves sels are Iving around, like bloodbounds, panting to pounce upon their prey. All our heavy ships are over the bar, save the Colorado. We have taken four of her nine inch guns, and others have been placed on other now mount twenty-eight guns, a very beavarmament. The coal shine are arriving and we are be need of A move will soon be made.

I saw in a late New Orleans paper they have a ad "terrible" affair, called the Aquatic Armadillo, (a for midable name, at least,) with which they will put us al to flight; and also, they have some "tremendous" "Horn-ing mortars." Beauregard will wipe out the army, and Mitchell and the Ram and Armadillo will sink the navy. It may be well to talk so, but it must be proved by deads. I think our plane, so far as I know about them and am able to judge of them, are about right, and feeling so, 1

There is one thing in regard to the equipment of our squadron I think my duty to write about. We are sadiy in want of medical officers, and especially medical stores. Every day surgeons are coming on board th flagship for things needful in case we have wounted men. There is hitle, very little, chloroform or ether out here, and in performing surgical operations they are one of the great necessities of the operation. Many a valuable life migh, be saved if the heads of departments were careful abou there things. The boalth of the squadron is very good now, but fever time is coming and we must naturally expect to have some sick ones. It becomes my painful duty to record the loss of a fine young man belonging to the mortar feet. It appears that on the 18th of March, while off Page-a-l'Outre, a boat from the M. J. Carlton attempted to go on board of the T. A. Ward while the lat ter vessel was under way, and, owing to some unforeseen cause, the boat was capsized and the entire crew thrown out. All were saved but an ordinary soaman, named Francis Bird, aged twenty-three, a native of Bristol England. By this untimely death, the fleet is deprived of an excellent man. He was drowned while doing his duty, and his family are, of course, entitled to a pension.

A very large white eagle has been floating over our beads all day long, and the prosence is halled as a good

omen. I do not know when I have seen such a sight When first discovered he was right over our masthead, and just visible; slowly and gracefully he descended until withhe auddenly darted upwards and towards the can tre of the sun. Thus be sailed and winged until dusk, rhen he was lost to our view.

Our gunboats now its up at the Jump, some ten miles from here, and we to got intend to allow the rebels to

all day, and I am of the impression that they are hard at work strengthening themselves at the fort so as to receive us with all the formalities of war. Of course, all are conident on ourside of a glorious victory, and I su they think the same. We will soon flad out who is right,

Our depat at Pilot Town is found to be well adapted for the purposes intended. A hospital has been established there, and a large quantity of ship stores have been already landed. Licutenant Hibra, of the marine corps of the Colorado, has relieved. Licutenant George Helsler, of the marine corps of this ship, and he has returned on board to take part in the coming fight. Our marines are among the best drilled gun crews in the ship, and will reader a good account of themselves on the day of battlethink some of the Colorado's men will be sent to this hip to work our four new guns. Give us our coal, and we are ready to act on the offensive, but now we can only act on the defensive. Ten days more and I will have the material for a soul thrilling letter, not so much to style as in the facts it will contain

Arrival of the Connecticut—Captain Porter's Fleet prepar-ing to open the Ball—General Butler to take the Rebels and the Plank—The Supporting Fleet of Fessels of War, do. The Connecticut arrived this afternoon, and as her fraw my letter to a close and note briefly our move ere. It will not be improper to state now that a portle of Porter's mortar flost will commence operations to morrow morning as soon as they can be towed just po sition. The ball will epon slightly at first. Captain Por tor has every couldence in the success of his vessels and expects great things of them. There has a difficulty

Connecticut for the North. They are charged with disc-bedience of orders, and they disclaim any intention of so doing. As I am not fully posted in the matter, I refrai at this time from making any comments. The Mississippi came up to-day, and now lies at a off our port bow. We have a very formidable feet here now. The Sachem (surveying steamer) ar-rived here to-day; and, by the first of the week, f expect

arisen among some of the acting masters commending some of the achooners, and I believe six will leave in the

to see a half a dozen of Butler's steamers in this neigh porbood, but not in the river. I think all our plans are now matured, and we will so soon; and as it will take the Connecticut about eighteen days to get home, I can see no harm in announcing the

aut that General Butler will take a hand in the affair and give the rebels a backhanded blow.

The weather is beautiful and the temperature is just

right to fight in. I suppose to-morrow there will be a great deal of excitement in the fleet, when the bombard. ment commences. It is true that there are not many vessels ordered to take part in it. It will be a kind of morter practice, and I suppose the rebel gunboate well try and-drive the morter vessels away; but we will have a sufficient force to provent this. The following vessels will be there to keep off their small fry: Oneia, Katha-din, Kinee, Wissahleken, Harriet Lane, Chikon, West. field and Owasco; and if mesossity requires it, we can end up four or five steam sloops-of-war

You can now look out for stirring news from this quer ter. All hands are confident of our success, and many are anxious to open the grand atte.

The schooler Rachol Seaman is here to-day, all well se

The French steam brig-of-war Milan, is still here. understand that the robel commander at the fort said just as Captain Clews was leaving:-"You would do us the favor not to inform our antagonists anything in rela-tion to our position here." To which Captain Clews replied:-"Sir, you do not know the first great principles of warfare;" and after bidding him good me left disgusted.

United States Stram Scoot-of-War Inoques, Tenert Mills up the Mensert Rives, April 10, 1882.

The Mississippi Equadron—The Strength of the Force—Another Account of the Reconnectsonice—The Robel Pleas—The Gunnery from the Peri—Our Advance or Ficks, Duly First—The Observations of the River—Cuptain De Camp, dc., dc. Convinced that the attack up the river and the im

tent operations of the Mississippi expedition would be performed by the fleet. I came on board the frequois en the 30th ult., and am at the present writing almost within range of the guns at Forts Jackson and St. Phillip, the mmediate points of attack. The squadron in the rives onsists of over forty sail, as follows:-

Fingship Hartford, twenty-six guns, Captain Richard Wainwright, Executive officer, Lieutenant J. S. Thornton. Steam sloop Brocklyn, twenty-six guns, Captain Thomas T. Craver, Executive officer, Lieutenant R. B. Lowry. Steam sloop Richmond, twenty-eight guns, Captain James Alden.

Steam sloop Misstssippi, sixteen guns, Captain M. Smith? Executive officer, Lieutenant Dewry.

Steam sloop Misstssippi, sixteen guns, Captain M. Smith? Executive officer, Lieutenant Dewry.

Steam sloop Pensacola, twenty-four guns, Captain Honry W. Morris; Executive Officer, Lieutenant Frances. Rec.

Rec. Steam aloop Opeida, eleven guns, Commander S. Philips Lee; Executive Officer, Lieutenant Sicord.
Bisteam aloop iroqueis, nine guns, Commander Joha Se.
Amp; Executive Officer, David B. Harmony.
Gunboat Westfield, six guns, Captain William B.

enshaw. Gunboat Katabdin, six guns, Lieutenant Commending Gunboat Cayuga, five guns, Lieutenaut Commandian Napoleon Harrison. Gunboat Cirlon, five guns.

Gunboat Kennebec, Bve guns, Lieutenant Commanding John Russell. Cunboat Kanzwitz, five guns, Lieutenant Commanding John Febiger. Gunboat Sciota, six guns, Lieutenant Commanding

Gunboat Science, six guns, Lieutenant Commanding Gunboat Miami, six guns, Lieutenant Commanding A. D. Starroll.
Gunboat Owasco, sive guns, Lieutenant Commanding Gunboat Owasco, Ne guas, Lieutenant Commandiag John Guest. Gunboat Winona, four guas, Lieutenant Commandiag Edward T. Nichels; Executive Officer, John G. Walker. Gunboat Wissahickon, five guas, Lieutenant Command-ing Albert N. Smith. Gunboat Kineo, five guas, Lieutenant Commandiag

eorge H. Ransom. Schooner Kittatinuy, nine guns, Acting Volunteer Lieu-

Schooner Kittatinny, nine guns, Acting Volunteer Lieutenant Lameon.

Gunbont Harriot Lane, six guns, Lieutenant Commanding J. M. Weinwright, with Commander David D. Pocter, who has twenty-one schooners, composing "Portor's mortar fact," each carrying a heavy mortar and two thirty two pound guns.

The fleet thus far, therefore, consists of forty-six sail,

carrying two hundred and eighty-six guns, and twenty one mortars, the whole under command of Fiag Off D. S. Farragut—Henry H. Bell, Flag Captain. The obstacles to be met by this formidable fleet, in its ap, proach to New Orleans, are the two forts Jackson and St. Philip, just above [us—the first on the western Both are strong fortifications, and will no doubt be ably defended. Completed under the supervision of General Beauregard, they were pronounced years ago to be capable of "beating off any navy in the world." Fort St. Philip commands some three miles of the river, exposing an ascending fleet to a direct raking fire for the distance of more than a mile. It is supported by three or four batteries, and has in all eighty-five chan nel bearing guns, several of which are supposed to be one hendred pound rifles, of English manufacture. Fort Jackson, upon the left side of the river in ascending, was formerly concealed from view until a boat coming from below was opposite; but the thickly wooded point hitherte hiding it has been cleared, and it now appears in sight at a distance of about two and a half miles, where an attacking force comes within range of its shot, and soon after, under the fire from St. Philip. Fort Jackson. with its flauking batteries, mounts ninety guns, sixteen being in casemate, and is a very formidable work. Both forts are built of brick, the dust from which, in case of good practice on the part of our mortar fleet, will render the defenders anything but comfortable in their quarters. Just below the two forts, stretched diagonally across the river, supported by a raft and seven von are several heavy chains which must in some manne-cut or otherwise removed before the forts can be past these chains are airongly protected by earthworks at each end, besides being directly under the fire of both forts. At their western extremity, where they are made fast to an anchored raft, a passage is left for the robe; they are made fast to pass up and down, and through this passage they daily issue. I send you herewith a rough diagram shew-ing the position of amirs on the occasion of a recent reconneissance by the Iroquois—of which more anon— which will render more intelligible the defences of the enemy at this point.
On Friday, the 28th ult., Commodore Farragut, with

the Kennebec, Lieutenant Commanding John Russel, made a reconnoissance to the point below the forts (men tioned above and shown in the accompanying diagram).
They remained under fire from the forts for some time, the
practice of the rebels being exceedingly accurate. Out of some forty or fifty shots fired, only a very few being other then good line shots, and many of them falling in very close proximity to the Kennebec. The fire was not returded by us, Commodors Farragut not wishing to give the enemy the savantage of a knowledge of on